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127.

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The machine-readable medium of claim 124, wherein said bid group characteristic comprises at least one of a group comprising an increase in frequency of bids, a statistical analysis of bid prices received from a group of potential bidders and a statistical analysis of bid prices received from one potential bidder.

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128. ~~The machine-readable medium of claim 117, further comprising:
setting a third closing time for a third lot;
determining whether to extend said third closing time based on said extended second closing time; and
extending said third closing time in accordance with said determination.~~

REMARKS

Applicants have deleted claims 1-8 and 89-104 without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. New claims 105-128 have been added in order to more clearly define the invention. Accordingly, claims 105-128 are presently under consideration in this Application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections made in the Office Action in view of the above amendments and the remarks made herein.

Claims 1-8 and 89-104 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1-8 and 89-104 have been canceled without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. New claims 105-128 have been drafted in view of the remarks made in the Office Action.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that claims 105-128 are in allowable form.
Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 412-560-3374 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John F. Kacvinsky', written over a horizontal line.

John F. Kacvinsky
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Dated: June 20, 2000

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